

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HEALTH DISTRICTS CONTINUE RESPONSE TO POSITIVE SCREENINGS  
FOR ANTHRAX**

(Richmond, Va.)— The Fairfax and Arlington health districts continue to coordinate with federal, state, and local officials to respond to yesterday's reports of positive screenings for *Bacillus anthracis*, the agent that causes anthrax. These signals were detected by two Department of Defense (DOD) air sampling sensors.

Forty-two DOD postal employees at a Skyline Facility in Fairfax County, called the Skyline Postal Facility are being counseled by Department of Defense health officials and offered a three day supply of antibiotics. Risk of exposure in these employees is considered very minimal, and antibiotics are being prescribed as a precautionary measure until further laboratory test results are available.

A laboratory test conducted by the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases in Fort Detrick, M.D. last evening on specimens collected at the Pentagon Remote Distribution Facility identified genetic material indicative of anthrax. Further laboratory testing and confirmation to determine if the genetic material is dead or alive are underway.

Virginia health officials believe that the risk of anthrax exposure is very low and any risk there may be is limited to people who were specifically involved in the mail handling facilities within the two identified buildings. The general public does not appear to be at risk of exposure.

"These results are still considered preliminary and additional confirmatory testing is currently in progress," said State Health Commissioner Robert B. Stroube, M.D., M.P.H. "We understand that the public will have concerns, and we are responding diligently and aggressively to the situation," said Dr. Stroube.

Additional laboratory tests are pending and will likely be available over the course of the next few days.

For more information about anthrax, log on to [http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/EPR/Agents\\_Biological\\_Anthrax.asp](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/EPR/Agents_Biological_Anthrax.asp) In addition, you can log onto the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site at [www.bt.cdc.gov](http://www.bt.cdc.gov).

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